MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The number for searches conducted by the Income Tax Department in Gujarat during the financial years 1990–91 and 1991–92 (upto 29 February, 1992) were 477 and 178 respectively.

(b) to (d). Yes, Sir. In the course of searches, substantial tax evasion has been detected in the case of one Managing Director of one group of newspapers of Ahmedabad, who has surrendered additional income of Rs. 1.86 crores for the current year under section 132(4) of the Income -tax Act and paid an instalment of Rs. 53 lakhs as additional advance tax in December 1991. Further follow-up actions on the material found in the course of the search have been taken up.

**Appointment of Commission Agents by Cotton Corporation of India**

3876 SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of commission agents appointed by Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for purpose of cotton from framers for exports;

(b) the rate of commission provided to the commission agents by the CCI;

(c) the commission allowed from foreign countries to the agents;

(d) whether commission earned by them from foreign counrrtries is to be declared to the Government;

(e) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding commissions being deposited in foreign countries;

(f) whether any investigations has been conducted by the Government in the matter;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The Cotton Corporation of India has not appointed any Commission agents for purchase of cotton from farmers for exporters.

(b) to (h). Does not arise.

**Payment of Cash Compensatory Support Claims to Exports**

3877. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have stopped payment of CCS claims to the exporters for exports made before July 2, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Government Borrowings from Banks**

3878. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has suggested that the Government should restrict borrowings at low interest from the banks; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

**Foreign Exchange Earnings from Exports**

3879. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the items which registered an upward trend to exports on account of liberalised trade policy;

(b) the countries with which exports have registered an upward trend during the past six months; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned during the past six months as compared to the corresponding period in the preceding year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The trade data is compiled on financial year basis. The principal commodities which registered an increase in exports during the period April–December, 1991, the latest period for which commodity and country break up is currently available, as compared to the corresponding period of April–December, 1990 inlcude: Agricultural and allied products, Chemical & related products, Marine Products, Ores & Minerals, Gems & Jewellery, Engineering Goods, Electronics and Computer Software, Textiles, Handicrafts, Carpets, etc.

(b) The principal countries in respect of which India's exports registered an increase during April–December, 1991 as compared to April–December, 1990 include: Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Malaysia, Hongkong, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Netherlands, Canada, Italy, Singapore, Thailand, USA, Belgium, Japan, Switzerland, French, Morocco, UK, Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden, Yogoslavia, etc.

(c) India's exports to the General Currency Agra amounted to Rs. 30914 crores during April–January 1991–92 as compared to Rs. 21427 crores during April–January 1990–91 thereby registering a growth of 44.3%. In dollar terms, India's exports to General Currency Area increased by 5.7%, India's exports to Rupee Payment Area amounted to Rs. 3785 crores during April–January 1991–92 as compared to Rs. 4809 crores during Apirl–January, 1990–91 thereby registering a decline of 21.3%. In dollar terms, India's exports to Rupee Payment Area decliend by 42.3%.

**Common High Court**

3880. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for a common High Court Act; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGA RAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.